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SAFC--7587
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9 July 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director of Material

SUBJECT : Replacement of Present B-5 Life Vest for Pilot Personnel - Detachment A

25X6C

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1. During my recent visit to [REDACTED], the Personal Equipment Technician with the Detachment, requested that I take up with you upon my return the question of obtaining a life vest or life jacket more suitable for the needs of the pilot personnel than the present B-5 jacket with which they are equipped.

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2. [REDACTED] suggested that it might be possible to acquire the underarm vest now used by several SAC units, one at MacDill Field, for example, since this style would remove the objection to the B-5 jacket, which centers around its bulkiness in back of the neck where mobility is already limited by the special helmet being worn.

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3. As an alternative to the above, [REDACTED] suggested the BUAIR Navy-type life jacket shaped like a waistcoat with no bulk about the neck. I believe that [REDACTED] may be familiar with this particular item. In any event, it is obvious that the Detachment is not satisfied with the present B-5 jacket, and, in view of the increasing likelihood of aerial activity over large bodies of water, such as the Black and Caspian Seas, steps should be taken to replace the B-5 with either type cited above.

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[REDACTED]
Director of Administration
FOR/DCI

JAC/slh

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